



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

**Richland Operations
Office**

DOE News Release

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Toppenish Middle School to Host Speaker from Hanford January 26

*John Silko to speak to more than 200 students about
overview of history and cleanup of Hanford Site*

RICHLAND, Wash. – The Department of Energy (DOE) will be the guest of Toppenish Middle School on Thursday, January 26, in Toppenish, Wash. DOE's John Silko, Senior Physical Scientist for the Richland Operations Office, will be the guest speaker for the group.

The Hanford Site sits adjacent to the Columbia River in southeastern Washington and for over four decades was the primary producer of plutonium for national defense. The site stopped producing plutonium at the end of the Cold War in 1989 and began a new chapter of environmental cleanup.

Hanford's latest chapter is one of thousands of employees demolishing facilities, digging up contaminated debris and soil, remediating contaminated groundwater, building a treatment plant to isolate millions of gallons of tank waste, and placing former plutonium production reactors in a state of safe storage until they can be removed from the landscape.

Part of the presentation will include the first chapter of The Hanford Story multimedia series, "Hanford Overview." The video received an Emmy award in 2011 for best Historical/Cultural – Program/Special from the Northwest Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences. The Hanford Story videos are available on <http://www.hanford.gov/page.cfm/HanfordStory>.

Silko's speech is part of DOE's [Hanford Speakers Bureau](#), a regional outreach program where the department travels to communities in the Pacific Northwest and provides updates on the Hanford Site. In the last year alone, the Hanford Speakers Bureau has presented to more than 50 audiences and approximately 2,200 people.

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